

occasion of her passing provides a small moment of reflection on our collective fight for equal rights.

A gay activist long before people were even calling themselves "gay," Barbara provided the first face for the burgeoning gay rights movement in the 1960s when she took an active part in protesting federal employment discrimination.

She was instrumental in having homosexuality removed from the American Psychiatric Association's list of mental disorders in 1973 and worked tirelessly within the American Library Association to make materials with GLBT content more accessible to the reading public.

When told she was the Rosa Parks of the gay rights movement, this modest activist stated that any success she enjoyed was always the result of a collaborative effort.

I think Barbara's lifelong accomplishments provide an important measure of how far we've come in the fight for equal rights for all Americans. To be sure, Madam Speaker, her death also serves to remind us that there is work yet to be done in ensuring all citizens can live lives free of discrimination, prejudice, fear, and the threat of violence. Sadly, today there is one less champion to do it.

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 20, 2007]

GAY RIGHTS PIONEER BARBARA GITTINGS, 75
(By Adam Satariano)

Barbara Gittings, 75, one of the earliest activists to push the U.S. government to provide gay men and lesbians with equal rights, died Feb. 18 at an assisted living center in Kennett Square, Pa. She had breast cancer.

In 1965, Ms. Gittings and several gay men and lesbians were the first to hold demonstrations outside the White House for equal rights for homosexuals. She later played a key role in the American Psychiatric Association's removal of homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in 1973.

"Gay people didn't have a face until Barbara started demonstrating in 1965," said Mark Segal, publisher of Philadelphia Gay News. "Up until that point, no gay face had been seen in the newspaper, on television or in the movies."

Her involvement in the gay rights movement started in the 1950s, when she helped form the New York City chapter of the early lesbian organization Daughters of Bilitis.

Around the same time, Ms. Gittings became estranged from her family, which did not approve of her championing of gay rights, Segal said.

Ms. Gittings headed the American Library Association's Gay Task Force to attract more attention to gay literature and urge libraries to provide more information on sexuality and gay issues.

William Kelley, a Chicago lawyer who first attended a national gay rights gathering with Ms. Gittings in the 1960s, said he remembered her saying that when she was young, she had to look in the encyclopedia to find out more about her sexuality. "It was her thought that libraries should be encouraged to offer more information to people about sexuality," he said.

Ms. Gittings also was an editor of the lesbian journal the Ladder in the mid-1960s.

In Ms. Gittings's lifetime, she saw a change in the perception of the gay rights movement. In the 1960s, she picketed in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia on the Fourth of July. In 2005, she attended a ceremony at which the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission placed a historical marker recognizing the gay rights struggle across the street from Independence Hall.

Ms. Gittings was born in Vienna, Austria, where her father worked as a U.S. diplomat. She was raised in Delaware.

Survivors include her partner of 46 years, Kay Lahusen, and a sister.

TRIBUTE TO MR. ANTHONY RONALD JORDAN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. SERRANO. Madam Speaker, as we celebrate the legacies of greatness of so many African Americans throughout our country's history, I rise today to pay tribute to a local hero and true people's champion in the Bronx, Mr. Anthony Ronald Jordan.

Born and raised in the South Bronx, the ethic of selflessness and compassion which guides so many of Mr. Jordan's professional endeavors today was instilled in him at an early age by his mother—the late Ruby Lee Jordan. Educated as a young man in the New York City public school system, Mr. Jordan continued his education at Monroe College, and later earned an advanced degree from Hunter College, part of the City University of New York. Mr. Jordan currently serves as the president and CEO of St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center, as well as the founder and president of the Moor House Gardens HDHC. During his tenure as president of St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center, the organization has thrived; for example, in 2006 alone the center proudly served over 84,000 individuals, families and children. Highly regarded throughout New York City for offering courteous and heartfelt support to people battling substance abuse, homelessness, and hunger, St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center serves as a beacon of light for many in the South Bronx.

In addition to his work at St. Benedict the Moor Neighborhood Center, Mr. Jordan also holds the distinction of being president of the Congregational Council at the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Peter's in the Bronx—a place of worship for him and his family for more than 25 years.

Madam Speaker, what fills me with hope as I reflect on Mr. Jordan's service to the Bronx to date, is the fact that his journey as a community leader is far from over. Residents of the South Bronx, myself included, are proud of this enormously talented individual; and we take heart in the belief that he will be able to continue to provide hope and work for change in our community for years and years to come. I am therefore pleased to recognize Mr. Anthony Ronald Jordan.

HONORING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the start of the Chinese New Year. Approximately 40,000 Chicagoans enjoy a Chinese heritage, and I wish to celebrate with them the turning of year 4705, the year of the Fire Boar.

The year of the Fire Boar starts Sunday, February 18. The New Year brings a time for cleansing the home to sweep away misfortune and welcoming in the New Year with hopes of prosperity and good luck. I look forward to the Chinese New Year because it reflects the end of winter and marks the beginning of spring. Indeed, the Spring Festival, as it also is known, is a time to give thanks for one's blessings, celebrate family, resolve arguments, and prepare the community to embark on a new year with hope and charity. We should all take advantage of the opportunity to explore and share in this treasured tradition with family and friends. Embracing this tradition honors the richness of our diversity as Americans. Also, it stands to reason, that as we benefit from the year of the Fire Pig, we should all make a pledge to donate some good fortune to others less fortunate than ourselves.

This year will be the 24th annual Chinese Lunar New Year celebration in Chicago's Chinatown, which I am proud to say, resides in my Congressional District. I am honored to participate in Chinese New Year celebrations, and I wish all a Gong Hay Fat Choy.

RECOGNIZING SECRETARY OF STATE CONDOLEEZZA RICE FOR HER COMMITMENT TO LIBERIA

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 28, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the wonderful work done by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in hosting the Liberia Private Sector Investment Forum, a part of a collective effort to ensure debt relief and economic revitalization for Liberia.

Now is a time for optimism in Liberia. Following 14 years of boorish dictatorship and ravenous civil conflict, Liberia has the opportunity to restore democracy, economic stability and social harmony. With the recent election of President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Africa's first female head of state, Liberia is well-positioned to step out of the shadow of a history of violence and destruction; however, Liberia continues to be bound to its past in the form of severe debt accrued over the years.

It is important for us all to follow Secretary Rice's example and encourage our President to forgive Liberia of its debt in full. Liberia simply cannot pay its debt to the United States in particular; a debt incurred when civil war ensued following the forceful ascension to power by Samuel Doe and Charles Taylor. A recent United Nations development report on Liberia found that more than 85% of the population is unemployed; nearly 75% of the population miserably subsist on less than \$1 per day. A third of the population is illiterate, almost 10% suffer from HIV and AIDS and life expectancy hovers somewhere around 50 years of age. Liberia's economy and infrastructure was nearly demolished during decades of fighting and tyranny. Those living in Liberia today still have limited access to clean water and electricity. It will take tremendous resources to rebuild schools, roads and power grids; however, many of Liberia's existing resources are required to repay the enormous debt burden.

The fiscal and structural resources necessary to repair a country whose economy